The Mint Master

Utah Numismatic Society

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Presidents Message

Hello and Happy New Year! Best wishes to each of you for a very happy and prosperous 2018!

A big "Thank You" to all of you who helped to make our December Christmas Dinner and Prize Drawing a great success. I think I can speak for all in saying that it was a festive and fun event. The food was good, the prizes were great, and the time spent among friends and family was the best.

For our January meeting we will continue to custom of having a Bourse Night. This will give each of you the opportunity to buy or trade for some of those items you've been searching for from fellow club members and maybe sell some of those duplicates or unneeded items that are filling up your collection space. Come early, pick a spot at a table, and try your hand at dealing for a night with friends and trusted associates. Also, as it is a new year, now is a great time to bring another friend or family member and help them get started with their own collections.

On a more serious and sadder note, I regret to inform all of you of the necessity for my resignation as President of the UNS. Recent personal events and circumstances have made it quite necessary for me to simplify my activities somewhat. I sincerely appreciate all of your support and kind words of encouragement over the last year. I hope you enjoyed the year's activities and events as I did. I am still planning on continuing as a club member and look forward to con-

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tinued associations and conversions with all of you, my friends, at future monthly UNS meetings.

Wishing you all much happiness and success in the coming year,

Darin Lee

Sincerely, Darin Lee



NEXT MEETING TUESDAY JANUARY 9TH AT 7:00 PM

British Terms 13 Empire Topics 14-17 Quiz from 1958 20 Book Review 21 Editors Message 23 Young Numismatists 28

January's Agenda

Greetings

Darin Lee

♦ Mini Exhibit

TBA

♦ New & Views

TBA

♦ Coin Quiz

TBA

Refreshments

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Coins That Don't Exist

Doug Nyholm

Much has been written about ultra-rare coins. By these I mean the very famous coins which may exist by only a handful of specimens known to include several issues which are unique. Then there are a number of coins which are occasionally mentioned which don't exist. I mean quite literally, they don't exist but are storied and discussed at times. What am I talking about, coins that are even listed in the Red Book and other sources that don't exist? A couple of these you can actually find listed in numismatic literature but others are quite a bit more obscure but when mentioned to informed coin collectors most are recognized by a comment such as, 'Oh, yeah I have heard of that coin."

I have put together a list of 10 of these so-called coins which do not exist, what I know about them, and some of their history. There may be more and a couple of these on this list may be on the fringe but here goes.

#1. 1873-S Seated Half Dollar with No Arrows

This is one of several non-existant coins that is actually listed in the "Red Book" with the note as "unknown in any collection" but with a mintage of 5,000 coins.

Below is a mock-up of what an '1873-S No Arrows' half dollar would look like. This coin was minted to the extent of 5,000 pieces, but today none



are known to exist. There has been a persistent rumor that one may exist, but it has never been confirmed. Recently one was offered, as shown above, which appeares to have been through a fire with molten bubbles present. The difference between the arrows and no arrows coin was due to a decrease in weight. This damaged coin cannot be verified by weighing, and it is not known if it is the same example which has been rumored for years. Other 1873 minor coinage denominations are also interesting. The 1873-CC dime has a reported mintage of 12,400 but is known for only a single specimen surviving. The Carson City quarter was also minted to the extent of 4,000 coins but only five are known to have survived. 1873 was a truly interesting year for numismatists.





#2. 1873-S Seated Dollar

Another 1873 coin which is also listed in the 'Red Book' with a mintage shown as 700 coins. Same caption, 'unknown in any collection."



#3. 1895 Business Strike Morgan Dollar

Everyone has probably heard of the existence of this coin as for decades

collectors have searched for an example. For many years the 'Red Book' listed the mintage as 12,880 with the 880 being the number of proofs and supposedly the 12,000 indicating a business strike mintage. The possibility of 12 mint bags hiding somewhere was long thought to be a possibility. But where could they be, nothing came out in the early 1960's. It was surmised that they may have been melted in 1918 as part of the Pitman act however to date none have ever surfaced and no confirmation has ever been acquired. One item to note however is that the current 'Red Book' no longer indicates a mintage of 12,880 but only indicated the 880 proofs struck.

12,880 silver dollars were struck in Philadelphia in 1895, or were they? 880 proofs are documented! One additional theory is that the mint records of 12,000 coins minted in 1895 are most likely coins dated 1894. There have been rumors and actual coins which have come to light in recent years which have been purported to be circulation strikes but all have subsequently been discounted as circulated proofs or altered coins. When a worn proof coin appears in fine or very fine condition it is difficult to positively ascertain that it once was a proof. There is just too much wear to be 100% positive. There is probably no such coin as a business strike 1895 dollar. The fabled stories of the melting of 12 bags of 1895 dollars in 1918 as part of the Pittman Act make very interesting tales but they are just that, tales. Keep looking, keep dreaming, but don't expect to ever see a true 1895 business (circulation) strike Morgan dollar from Philadelphia.

#4 1959-D Wheat Back Lincoln Cent

A 1959-D cent with a wheat back reverse? There is only one known to exist but is it real? The U.S. Secret Service has stated in their opinion it is <u>not</u> counterfeit. It has appeared at auction, only to be pulled just prior to the actual sale. It has been submitted to all major grading services who have offered a 'No Opinion.' So what's the story? We may never know for sure, but here is what I have heard. I hesitate to say 'know' because there is just so much conjecture about this coin. I believe that it is a counterfeit and am aware of one possibility involving Mark Hofmann. Mark Hofmann was a master forger now serving time for a double murder in the Utah State Penitentiary. He was responsible for counterfeiting many Mormon scrip items including the forgery of the infamous Salamander

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Letter. He experimented with alterations and counterfeiting coinage by using electroplated dies and electroplating processes. Mr. Hofmann never came clean and confessed to which items he manufactured, but I believe that after speaking with prison guards close to Mark, and hearing subtle comments he made to them, that he is very likely responsible for this coin. I believe that he still delights in knowing that some of his creations still exist and are still fooling some experts.

#5 1964-D Peace Dollar

The 1964 Peace dollar was authorized by Lyndon Johnson with a planned mintage of 45 million coins. Production began at the Denver mint on May 15th, 1965 and in subsequent days 316,076 coins were produced in addition to 30 trial strikes. The design and composition were identical to the Peace dollar last produced in 1935. Although produced in 1965 they were dated 1964 due to the date freeze then in place in reaction to the nation's coin shortage. The controversy began later in 1965 when the government ordered all 1964 dollars to be melted. Later it was announced that they were never officially released and illegal to own. But do they exist? There are several intriguing stories including accounts that two of the trial strikes were given to dignitaries



in Washington. One of the most interesting accounts I heard was that Denver mint employees were allowed to purchase two of the dollars at the end of their shift one day. The order to melt came the next morning and the dollars recalled. As you can imagine, not all were returned and one employee supposedly spent one of his dollars at a Denver bar that night. I have spoken to several people who have seen them. Someone was offered two at a price exceeding \$10,000 each. If ever offered legally they could possibly fetch seven figures. But still today one has never been confirmed

#6. 1917 Proof Coinage

1917 Proof coins you say. There are coins which have been touted as 1917 proofs and there has been significant debate as to whether or not they even exist. To be sure, the 'Red Book' lists, but assigns no value to 1917 cents and nickels. It also mentions specimen strikings of quarters that are known. No grading service has certified any 1917 coins as proofs and thus, the debate goes on.

It may be a possibility that the very few patterns created in 1917 have, over the years, been described as proofs. There is nothing but controversy concerning proofs of 1917.

The below images are available, and although not exceptional in quality are possible examples of 1917 proof coinage. The most compelling coin appears to be the cent which has square rims and immaculate surfaces.







<u>#7.</u>

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1804 Half Dollar

An 1804 half dollar you ask? As far as I know, the 1804 half dollar does not exist but there is definitely

a story here. Shown here is a 1805/4 half which is relatively common and usually available. Well then, if this coin exists as an overdated die from the year 1804 where are the 1804 halves? Surely, the mint must have made use of an 1804 die, as it was the practice at that time to utilize every resource. It would then be overdated and made use of again in 1805. They produced 1804 dimes and quarters! Yet no 1804 halves exist. Years ago, there was an apparent 1804 half circulating in the numismatic community that was later found to be an altered 1804/5. I have seen pictures of it, and it was an exceptional alteration. This 1805/4 coin, as far as I know, is the only overdate of a date which was never produced. Even more astonishing is the fact that



there is not one obverse die which was overdated, but two different dies! Interesting, yes, does an actual 1804 exist, maybe, but probably not. It does make an interesting tale to tell and to wonder about. What do you think?

#8 1931 Standing Liberty Quarter

The only reference to this coin's existence is from Jay Cline, a noted expert of this series, who mentions the possibility in his books. The last known Standing Liberty quarter was issued in 1930. The Washington quarter would not follow until 1932. It was standard procedure at the mint to prepare the following years coinage late during the previous year. Thus, in December of 1930 it would be possible that dies were prepared for 1931 coinage. 1931 was not a year of extensive commemorative coinage, no silver dollars; no nickels in Philadelphia, but other denominations were minted. Granted, it was the beginning of the 'Great Depression' and demand for coins was down. Maybe there were no plans for 1931 quarters, but, on the other hand there is the possibility that test, trials, and die preparation occurred. In any event, it is virtually certain that any 1931 quarters, if they did exist, met their fate in the melting pot. A 1931 quarter is definitely an interesting possibility and worthy of water cooler conversation.

#9 1964 Franklin Half Dollar

This coin is similar to the 1931 quarter and their existence makes logical sense. However even if trial pieces were ever minted the liklehood of them surviving is almost nil. However with the recent discovery of the galvano of the 1964 Morgan Dollar one cannot rule out anything.



#10 1914/3 Buffalo Nickel

Here is a very interesting coin. It has been certified as an overdate by several grading companies including PCGS and NGC, and has been sold at auction. And now the general consensus is that this coin is not an overdate, i.e. it does not exist.

This overdate is a testimony that new things can and are still being discovered in our coinage. This variety was not discovered until 1996. It was most likely overlooked for almost 100 years because the overdate is very difficult to see, especially on lower grade coins. An additional overdate has been reported for this date from the Denver mint and one has been rumored to exist from San Francisco. Initially only the Philadelphia issue is recognized and graded by the major grading services. Although it does command a premium, it is not as widely collected as a member of the Buffalo nickel series, as the 1918/7-D overdate or the 1937-D three-legged issue. Nonetheless, it is an interesting coin which again attests to the fact than new things are sometimes discovered but this discovery has fallen out of favor. Keep looking closely at your coins; you

never know what you may find.



Counterfeit Detection

To help collectors and dealers identify counterfeits, NGC has prepared lists of the most commonly counterfeited coins with diagnostic information and images from NGC's extensive database, as well as commentary from the NGC grading team.







NGC has added a counterfeit detection tool to their website. It shows the top or most encountered counterfeits for U.S., Chinese, and World coins. Each of the coins listed has a page dedicated to it with counterfeit diagnostics and enlarged pictures. There is also discussions regarding the different ways counterfeits are manufactured. This is a very valuable tool for collectors and can be accessed on your laptops, tablets, and smart phones. It is free to all collectors.

It is interesting to note that among the listings for U.S. coins is every single date and mintmark for the Indian quarter eagle is listed.













1. 1909-S VDB Lincoln Cent



The 1909-S VDB Lincoln cent is one of the most popular United States coins. This popularity had led it to become the most commonly altered and counterfeited collectible coin in the world, according to submissions to NGC. For a counterfeiter, the addition of a simple, small design element (an "S" mintmark or "V.D.B." initials) can make a very cheap coin appear to be worth hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars. The frequency with which these forgeries are seen makes it essential to thoroughly inspect any 1909-S VDB Lincoln cent. Read more >

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If any you would like a complete compilation of all 11 sections of the National Banks of Utah I plan on putting the entire series into a PDF file which I will be happy to supply upon request. This PDF is planned to be complete sometime in January.

Sincerely - Doug Nyholm / Editor - Mint Master

JANUARY COIN SHOV



UPCOMING AUCTIONS & CONSIGNMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Auction	Location	Date	Deadline
Long Beach Expo U.S. Coins	Long Beach	Feb. 21-26	CLOSED
Chicago Coin Expo World & Ancient Coins	Chicago	Apr. 20-24	Feb. 16
Central States U.S. Coins U.S. & World Currency	Chicago	Apr. 25-30	Mar. 12 Mar. 5
Long Beach Expo U.S. Coins	Long Beach	Jun. 13-15	Apr. 30
Hong Kong International World Coins World Currency	Hong Kong	Jun. 27-29	Apr. 30 May 7
Summer FUN	Orlando	Jul. 12-16	May 29
ANA World's Fair of Money U.S. Coins U.S. Currency World & Ancient Coins	Philadelphia	Aug. 14-20	Jul. 2 Jun. 25 Jun. 15
Long Beach Expo U.S. Coins World & Ancient Coins U.S. & World Currency	Long Beach	Sep. 5-11	Jul. 23 Jul. 6 Jul. 16

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Hoards

Doug Nyholm

If you look in the page in this Mint Master showing the first edition of 'Empire Topics' published in 1958 you will notice the ad selling an entire roll of circulated 1916-D Mercury Dimes. This piqued my interest to research hoards of bygone days, and the people who accumulated these hoards. This roll of 1916-D dimes and other key and semi-key dates are relics of a bygone era and we are very unlikely to see rolls such as these today. I do remember speaking to old timers who recall seeing or selling BU rolls of 1909-SVDB Lincolns along with other key dates. These sadly have all been broken up long ago.

Similarly, while working at Heritage I encountered a client who had been putting together rolls of key dates like the 1916-D Mercs for years. Even more astonishing he had not one but multiple put together rolls of circulated key dates of the following:

1877 Indian Head Cents 1909-SVDB Lincoln Cents 1916-D Mercury Dimes

And, most astonishing of all - A roll and a half of 1901-S Barber Quarters!

He wanted to know what I thought he could sell them for at a Heritage auction. All of his rolls were fantastic but selling them in todays market may create some problems. Especially the 60 or so 1901-S Barber Quarters. I advised him that selling them all at once may dilute the market and the return may be less than if they were trickled out to the market a few at a time. First, the number of possible buyers for these full rolls would be limited to a very small number of people, and second entering 40, 50, 60 or more of a single key date in an auction may increase the number of buyers but still dilute the market and return. My suggestion was to place a small number of the coins, possibly 6-10 depending on the date into a single auction and continue the same procedure in subsequent auctions until they were completely dispersed. Even this idea may not be acceptable to some consignors, I once had a client place is BU 1916 Standing quarter into one of Heritage auctions and was very unhappy when he received his catalog and saw 3 additional 1916 Unc. quarters alongside of his. If any of you have ever browsed a major auction you will know that this is a common practice, no single coin or date is ever guaranteed unique billing. An example is in this upcoming FUN sale to be held by Heritage in January has 12 examples in varying grades of the 1916 quarter. Even the rare 1895 Proof Morgan Silver Dollar is represented by 5 examples. So what this means is that hoarding coins by date and mint in the era of modern numismatics can be risky.

I recently wrote in the Mint Master about a single auction containing over 30 1794 Half dollars all from a

single consignor which apparently performed well. Decades ago a mail order coin company listed about 40 1815 Bust Halves from a single hoard so hoards do continue to be put together and subsequently appear for sale.

Then there was the 'Roll Craze' which began in the early 1950's until 1964 where many people were putting away hundreds and thou-





sands of BU rolls of current coins, cents thru half dollars. One of the more documented and hoarded coin of all time was the 1950-D Jefferson Nickel. This date was hoarded in such phenomenal numbers the it is estimated that 75-80% of the entire mintage still exists in uncirculated condition. Most of the remaining examples are probably in XF-AU condition. If one wants an example in VF (for whatever reason) there search will be long as a VF 1950-D nickel is actually a rarity.

Next time you attend a major show, just for an experiment, try to find one. Virtually all dates of coins

during the roll craze were hoarded and quite a large number of these BU rolls still exist but they are definitely in smaller numbers than the number originally put away. The first to be broke up were probably the cents and nickels as after 1964 the market just tanked for sales of these rolls. Even the rolls of silver dimes, quarters and halves have been reduced drastically, not because they were broken up but due to the Hunt brothers who attempted to corner the silver market in the 70's during which time anything that had any



silver in it went into the melting pot. Many of the silver rolls which remained also found their way to the refineries 10-15 years ago, so much that if you research mintage figures for modern silver coins the remaining number of coins is a much smaller percentage of the original mintage. Many of these which did enter circulation are now traded by bag quantities in the silver market a Junk Silver.

Finally there is the much more modern craze of hoarding. This involves beginning with the Statehood Quarters followed by the America The Beautiful Quarters. Not to be ignored are the shorter runs of four bicentennial Lincoln Cents and the commemorative Jefferson nickels, especially the modern Buffalo nickel. Virtually all of these modern issues are realistically worth face value and millions have been exchanged at banks for



their face. A very interesting coin among these is the modern Buffalo nickel. When was the last time you saw one of these in circulation? I can probably count on my fingers the number of them I have received in change over the last year or two. Similar to the 1950-D nickel everyone it seemed like everyone wanted to acquire rolls of this modern Buffalo thinking that it would be as desirable as the original Buffalo's of 1913-1938. Most of the mintage is stored in boxes in the attic or closet of these hoarders thinking they are going to cash in one day in the future.

The aforementioned hoards are interesting and of course there have been fabulous hoards which have been worth millions of dollars. These include the NY Subway hoard, The Wells Fargo \$20 1908 Double Eagle hoard, then there was the Economite hoard of early half dollars which contained well over 100,00 Bust halves. There have even been hoards of paper currency.

The one thing about hoards is they make everyone dream about finding one under that old oak tree, in our back yard, or in grandpa's attic or old barn. Who knows where the next one will turn up, and for sure there are many more hoards waiting to be discovered. It has been said that there are more coins in the ground and under water than there are coins in circulation. Keep dreaming, and keep looking.

The Rarest U.S. Coin of the Twentieth Century

I was a relatively new collector in 1966 and was intrigued when this coin's designer, Felix Schlag's, initials were added to the bust of the Jefferson nickel. I also remember the front page headlines in the hobby magazines regarding the event and the notation that two proofs (these were struck twice on specially prepared planchets) were made of this 1966 nickel with Schlag's initials. This occurred during a time of Special Mint Sets and the absence of any true proofs. These were presented to Felix Schlag and noted as a footnote in the 'Red Book.' I have not seen or heard anything regarding their whereabouts since 1966 however, I did speak to a Jefferson nickel specialist who stated he observed one several years ago but had doubts that it was actually one of the two proofs. The coin was not pretty and although it had square rims and other characteristics of a proof it's provenance remains unconfirmed. It technically remains one of the rarest coins of the twentieth century and if one ever comes on the market it will surely command a significant premium.



Non-Proof example shown

English Coin Names

I have many times heard of unusual names for English coins such as a Groat, Florin, and Guniea and often been baffled as to what and how they fit into the denominational currency system. Some overlapped, some are hundreds of years old and some, at least to me are downright confusing. I did a bit of research and put together the following table in the hopes that it may enlighten and educate some of you collectors who may be as confused as I was.

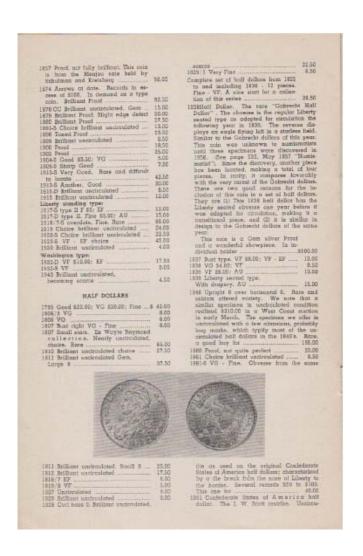
Groat	4 Pence	1351-1662	
Florin	1/10 Pound	1849-1970	Replaced by the 10 Pence in 1990
3 Pence	1/80 Pound Sterling	1928-1969	
Half Crown	2 Shillings and 1 sixpence or 1/8 Pound	1707-1970	
Crown	1/4 Pound Sterling	1707-1965	Originally 5 Shillings
Guinea	21 Shillings	1663-1814	
Farthing	1/4 Penny or 1/960 Pound	1860-1956	
Shilling	12 Pence	1503-1967	Replaced by the 5 Pence in 1990
Half Penny	1/480 Pound Sterling	1672-1967	
4 Pence	1/60 Pound Sterling# Referred to as a Joey or rarely as a Groat	1836-1885; 1888	
50 Pence	½ Pound Sterling	1969-Present	
Quid	1 Pound (20 Shillings)		Nickname
Sov	Sovereign		Nickname
Nugget	Pound Currently# Sovereign Previously		Nickname
Maundy Money	Special sets of 1,2,3 and 4 Pence		
Bob	Shilling		Nickname
2 Bob or 2 Shillings	Florin		Nickname
Pound	20 Shillings# Equal to 242 Pennies		

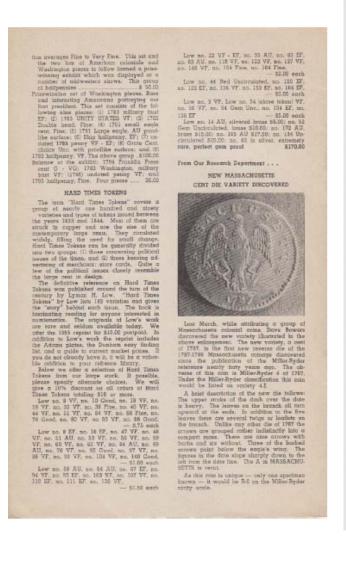
Empire Topics Issue #1

Doug Nyholm

Along with the thousands of other books in my personal library I have also collected and read virtually everything Q. David Bowers has written. I have also collected virtually the entire set of 150 issues of his "Rare Coin Review" missing only about a half a dozen of the very early issues. I recently saw an ad for "Empire Topics" issue #1 dated May-June 1958 and had to add that to my collection. The cover had a very young picture of David Bowers and Jim Ruddy along with many coins offered to collectors in 1958. The newsletter is in a 5x7 format consisting of just 12 pages with some amazing coins offered at prices that few of us have ever seen. To me, 1958 is not that long ago, I was a child of 6 and hadn't begun collecting or developing an interest in coins yet, that would happen in 1962 when I was 10. One of the most amazing offerings in the first issue of "Empire Topics" was a complete roll of circulated 1916-D Mercury Dimes offered at \$950.00! There was a column about Dave Bowers discovering a new Massachusetts cent variety, the first new variety of that coin discovered in several decades.

With the addition of this publication it brings up the question to me of how many, and for how long this Bowers/Ruddy publication existed? And since I do not have the first edition of the "Rare Coin Review", when exactly it begin, and how did the transition occur? This "Empire Topics" is certainly a relic of Numismatic history from one of the most prolific researchers and writers of our time.





Stack's Bowers Galleries is Pleased to Present

The A.J. Vanderbilt Collection

to be offered with other important properties in our

Official Auction of the Whitman Coin & Collectibles Spring Expo March 21-23, 2018 • Baltimore, Maryland

Consign U.S. Coins by January 22, 2018

The A.J. Vanderbilt Collection had its beginning in 1936 when its collector started buying coins from Stack's at the age of 15. He continued filling holes in the collection until his recent passing at the age of 96. He built marvelous sets focused on 25 specific years in U.S. numismatics, with the goal of acquiring high quality circulation strike examples of every date and mintmark combination and major type of every denomination struck in those years. In addition, he gathered a Proof type set in gold, silver and base metals, as well as complete sets of gold and silver classic commemoratives. Among the many highlights of the Vanderbilt Collection are a 1795 \$5 with Heraldic Eagle reverse graded MS-62 (PCGS) (CAC) and an 1874-CC dime from the R.L. Miles Collection graded MS-63 (PCGS). For paper money enthusiasts the Vanderbilt Collection features a nearly complete set of design types of the \$1, \$2, and \$5 Large Size notes, all in high grade.



Contact us for more information about this collection.
West Coast: 800.458.4646 • East Coast: 800.566.2580 • Email: Info@StacksBowers.com





EMPIRE TOPICS

Issue No. 1

May - June

1958

Empire Topics is the publication of
Empire Coin Company, Inc., 252 Main Street, Johnson City, New York.
Telephone 9-3101 Empire Topics is mailed free to all interested collectors.

Empire Coin Company, Inc., was formed on April 1, 1958 by James F. Ruddy and Q. David Bowers. Triple Cities Coin Exchange and Bowers Coin Company were combined to form the new company. Perhaps a brief history of the two combining companies would be of interest.

Triple Cities Coin Exchange was formed in 1953 by James F. Ruddy. Jim specialized in early American coins at first, but soon widened his operations to include the entire United States series as well as a complete offering of numismatic supplies. Advertising on a nationwide basis was started, and soon several thousand customers were being served. In the early part of 1956 the company moved to an office in downtown Johnson City, N.Y. The addition of a secretarial staff made possible an increased sales volume. In the years since 1953 ever increasing sales and a growing list of customers made Triple Cities Coin Exchange one of America's foremost coin companies.



JIM RUDDY

Bowers Coin Company of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., was formed by Q. David Bowers. Dave specialized from the beginning in choice United States coins. Like Jim, Dave soon established a mailing list of several thousand customers. Since 1954 Dave has done a considerable amount of numismatic research and has handled most of the great American numismatic rarities.



DAVE BOWERS

Dave and Jim first combined their efforts in the summer of 1957. Their Penn-New York auction attracted wide attention and was an outstanding success. Realizing that a combination of their two companies would result in a complete numismatic service for collectors, steps in this direction were taken in late 1957 and early this year. Empire Coin Company was incorporated on the first of April, 1958. The combination of facilities, numismatic knowledge, reference libraries, and customer mailing lists made possible a complete numismatic service.

TOCA C I mintage of 90 000 pieces		1899 Brilliant proof	21.00
1864-S Low mintage of 90,000 pieces.	10.00	1904-S Brilliant uncirculated gem,	
1865-S Very Good	5.00	prooflike surface. As nice as the	
1866 A negligible coinage of only		1893-S above	75.00
10,000 pieces for circulation. How		1911 Brilliant uncirculated	4.50
many can survive today? Unc	30.00	1914 Brilliant uncirculated	5.00
1866-S AU	15.00	1914-D Brilliant uncirculated	5.50
1867-S VG	4.00	1916 Barber. Brilliant uncirculated	4.00
1868-S VG	2.00		
1869 Brilliant uncirculated	8.00	ACED GUIDU MUDE DIALEG	
1869-S Very Fine	3.00	MERCURY TYPE DIMES	
1870 Brilliant uncirculated, beautiful	0.00	1016 D A most unusual and norhans	
	12.00	1916-D A most unusual, and perhaps unprecedented offer. One roll (50	
proof surface	7.00		
1871 Brilliant uncirculated	7.00	coins) each in Good to Very Good	
1871-S Brilliant uncirculated gem with	E0.00	condition. Every mintmark is full.	
proof surface. Incomparable!	50.00	The 1916-D dime is to the Mercury	
1871-S VF, has been bent and	F 00	dime series what the 1909-S V.D.B.	
straightened	5.00	cent is to the Lincoln cent series.	
1872-S Brilliant uncirculated, a gem.	10.00	This date continues to climb in price	
S in wreath	12.00	steadily every year. We remember	
1872-S Uncirculated, weakly struck.		when 1916-D dimes were selling for	
S below wreath	7.00	\$5 each; then they were hard to find	
1873 Unc. proof surface \$8.00;	10.00	for \$10; a little later, for \$15; then	
Gem Proof	18.00	\$20; then \$25. A wonderful invest-	
1873-S Brilliant uncirculated	10.00	ment opportunityS	950.00
		1916-D Abt. Good \$17.00; Good \$25.00;	
DIMEG		G - VG \$27.50; VG \$35.00; Fine	70.00
DIMES		1921-D Brilliant uncirculated, scarce	80.00
1833 Brilliant uncirculated	10.00		00.00
1834 Brilliant uncirculated	10.00	1942/loverdate. Rare.	
1836 Brilliant uncirculated	8.00	Very Fine \$37.50; VF - EF \$45.00;	
1837 Bust type. Brilliant uncirculated.	0.00	AU	55.00
All of these early dimes are becom-			
All of these edity difficult to locate		TWENTY CENT PIECES	
ing increasingly difficult to locate	15.00		
in top preservation	10.00		
1841 Liberty seated, drapery at elbow.	7.00		301
BU	9.00		
1856 L.D. Brilliant uncirculated	6.00	A THE STATE OF THE	
1856 Small date, Brilliant uncirculated	10.00	All Control of the Co	2
1857-0 Brilliant uncirculated	8.00		
1859-0 Brilliant uncirculated	0.00		9/
1868 Dime. Struck in alumninum in-		(Carlo)	1
stead of silver. Unusual. Extremely	05.00	The state of the s	
Fine, rare	25.00		
1869 Brilliant proof	22.00		
1869-S Brilliant uncirculated, rare	25.00	1875 ProofS	47.50
1870 Brilliant proof	20.00	1875-S We have just purchased a large	
1875-CC below wreath. Brilliant Unc	12.00	accumulation of 1875-S twenty cent	
1877 Brilliant proof. Similar specimen		pieces and offer them at the follow-	
sold for \$42 last summer in our Penn-	10.00	ing prices: VG \$5.00; Fine \$7.50;	
N.Y. auction	40.00	VF	9.75
1877-CC Brilliant uncirculated	7.00		
1880 Brilliant uncirculated	9.00	1875-CC VG \$6.75; Fine	10.00
1881 Uncirculated. Only 24,975 coined	11.00	1877 A proof which has seen slight	
1884-S Brilliant uncirculated, proof	10.00	circulation. An acceptable specimen	
surface	45.00	of this very rare date for the collector	
1887 Brilliant proof	13.50	who does not want to pay \$160.00	
1887-S Brilliant uncirculated	6.50	for a perfect specimen	95.00
1888-S Brilliant uncirculated	7.00	Contraction of the contract of	
1889-S Brilliant uncirculated	16.00	AND DENTIL DESCRIPTION OF THE	
1892 Barber type. Unc	5.00		
1893-0 Fine	5.00	QUARTERS	
1893-S Brilliant uncirculated gem with		1004 01- 17 00-1 7	10.50
prooflike surface. Superb!	45.00	1804 Sharp Very Good. Rare	
1895 Gem Proof. Rarest P mint Barber		1805 Good - Very Good	
THE STATE OF THE S		1806/5 Good - Very Good	9.00
dime. We note several recent offer-			
dime. We note several recent offer- ings of this coin at prices near and		1806 Fine, sharp	15.00
ings of this coin at prices near and	125.00	1828 Brilliant uncirculated, Gem.	15.00
ings of this coin at prices near and above \$150. This one	125.00 25.00		
ings of this coin at prices near and	125.00 25.00 22.00	1828 Brilliant uncirculated, Gem.	





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Coin Quiz from 1958

Below is the Coin Quiz from the first edition of "Empire Topics" published by Dave Bowers and James Ruddy. Knowledge is timeless, see how many you can answer.

In Our Next Issue . . .

The next issue of EMPIRE TOPICS will offer for sale items in all series from half cents to double eagles. Colonials, patterns, and other series not in the regular United States coinage will also be featured.

The "From Our Research Department" section will be expanded to include answers to interesting inquiries received from our readers. New and important discoveries will be described.

EMPIRE TOPICS will continue to be mailed free to our customers. If you are not on our mailing list, or have a friend who isn't, send us a postcard with your name and address.

COIN QUIZ

Test your numismatic knowledge. Score yourself as follows: 8 to 10 correct, excellent; 5 to 7 correct, good; 0 to 4 correct, better start studying.

- From the observer's position, the eagle faces left on all of the following coins except one. On which coin does the eagle face right?
- a. 1858 cent, b. 1842 half dollar, c. 1885 trade dollar, d. 1892 Barber quarter.
- 2. In 1859 transitional pattern coins were struck in a number of denominations. Which of the following had no 1859 transitional coin?
- a. cents, b. half dimes, c. dimes, d. quarters.
- 3. The Old Spanish Trail commemorative half dollar was coined in which of the following years?
 - a. 1925, b. 1934, c. 1935, d. 1936.
 - 4. Clark Gruber & Co. which issued terri-

torial gold coins in the 1860's was located in which of the following locations?

- a. San Francisco, b. Salt Lake City, c. Denver, d. Sacramento.
- 5. Roman numerals instead of an arabic date appear on one type of the 1907 double eagle. Roman numerals also appear as the date on one of our commemorative coins. Which one?
- a. 1903 Louisiana Purchase dollar, b. 1915 Pan-Pacific fifty dollar gold piece, c. 1916 McKinley dollar, d. 1926 Philadelphia quarter eagle.
- 6. Which of the following denominations was not discontinued in 1889?
- a. three-dollar gold, b. gold dollars, c. three-cent silver, d. three-cent nickels.
- 7. Half eagles were first coined in which of the following years?
 - a. 1793, b. 1794, c. 1795, d. 1796.
- 8. The leading reference on early half dollars was written by which of the following individuals?
- a. Bolender, b. Beistle, c. Breen, d. Browning.
- 9. The motto IN GOD WE TRUST was added to our quarters, half dollars, and dollars in what year?
 - a. 1853, b. 1864, c. 1866, d. 1873.
- 10. The comet variety is a variety of what coin?
- a. 1807 large cent, b. 1821 dime, c. 1796 half cent, d. 1797 dollar.

Answers to Coin Quiz: 1-C, 2-D, 3-C, 4-C, 5-B, 6-C 7-C, 8-B, 9-C, 10-A

BOOK REVIEW

CATALOGUE EURO COINS AND BANKNOTES 2017

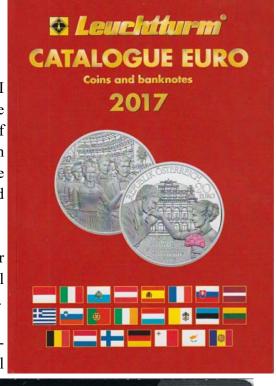
I picked this book up at the recent ANA in Denver last August. I primarily wanted the book as a reference for my library. Since the introduction of the Euro there have been not only an explosion of many different types and metals as well as a significant increase in the number of countries producing Euro coins. 23 countries are now participating and there are a large number of silver and gold special issues of which many are quite scarce and valuable.

This book covers it all, including mintages, prices, and full color pictures of all the issues. Also covered are the multitude of special sets, rolls, and packaging. There is even a chapter on paper issues.

The book is printed in Germany and lists for 9.95 Euros is available on the internet for a variety of prices. Again it is glossy, full

color and each country is separated into its own chapter. The total page count is 597. If one thinks that collecting Euros is a simple matter this book will prove that putting together sets is a very complicated endeavor. Did you know that there are euro coins with tiny mintages that have a book value of over 120,000 Euros!

Definitely a specialized book but if you want to have a simple source for Euro coins this is a great starting point. .







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Dave Blackhurst

801-580-9534

Editors Message

I write this as Christmas is over and the New Year is ahead.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and got all the coins they had on their Santa's list. That being said, and I'm sure there are still a few coins on your want list and the upcoming FUN convention and auction is a great place to look. Heritage will be conducting one of the premier auctions of the year which will be held in Tampa in conjunction of the FUN show. This years event plans to be another great event with many rarities ready to change hands. Just a couple of days before Christmas I received my box with their catalogues and have spent many hours browsing through them and drooling over the many rarities of which I will never be able to afford but being able to read about them this is the next best thing.

Doug Nyholm



This years auction contains many delicacies such as an almost complete set of \$20 gold coins, an NE shilling, a Sommer Islands sixpence and many many more rarities.

As a belated Christmas present, I am waiting for it to come in the mail soon, is a new book about Seated Silver Dollar varieties by Disk Osburn. It will officially be released at the FUN show with copies being mailed out soon thereafter. Already in the Heritage catalogues for FUN is Seated Dollars being referred to with the OC-1 (or similar) designations. These of course are obviously from a preliminary copy of the book at Heritage who used the book to attribute the Seated dollars being offered. The "OC" reference refers to Osburn-Cushing, Cushing being Dick Osburn's partner. I have observed Dick scouring the bourse floors at many recent major shows for the past several years looking at every Seated Dollar on the floor. I wonder if he kept track exactly how many dollars he looked at during this time. I will hopefully be reviewing the book in its entirety in next months Mint Master.

Until then, I want to wish everyone a prosperous and Happy New Year.



Sincerely,
Doug Nyholm
Mint Master Editor

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PRIZES FOR JANUARY

Promptness Prize - 1926 S Peace \$

Junior Prize - New Zealand Florin 1963

Member Prize - 62 & 63 Franklin ½ \$'s

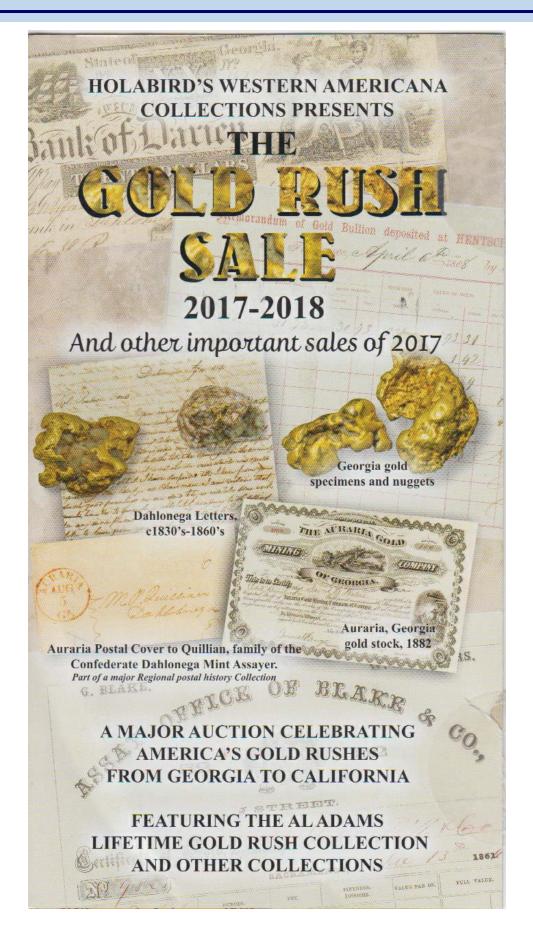


The Buy of the month is: 2017 pennies

PRIZES TO BE WON

3 ea. Standing Liberty quarters	1980 Pf. Set
10 ea. Mercury dimes	1971 Pf. Set
1950 S Bu Dime	1946 roll nickels
2017 Enhanced coin set	1959 D Washington quarter
2000 Clad Pf. set	1939 Walker ½
2009 Pf. quarters	2 Bronze Bi-cent. Medals
20 Indian pennies	2 ea. 1962 ½ \$'s
1950 S BU Roosevelt dime	1919 D Mercury dime
1949 D BU Dime	1913 S Buffalo nickel
1950 D BU dime	Colorized Quar. Set
2017 Enhanced coin set	1923 S PEACE \$
2005 Pf. Nickel Ocean-	Donation Prizes included also
2005 Pf. Nickel Bison	

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2018 OFFICERS & BOARD

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HYLO TO SOCIETY TO SOLVE TO SO



Hospitality Richard Blaylock & Lamar Kemp

Young Numismatists

Phil Clark

SUCCESSFULLY PURCHASING THE U.S. MINT JANUARY 2018 OFFERINGS WILL LIKELY CHALLENGE OUR BUDGETS AND COMPUTER PROWESS.

The Mint is currently scheduled to offer thirteen (13) products this January and two of the offerings could be challenging to add to a personal collection due to cost and/or limited availability. The first of the challenging products are the World War Centennial Proof Silver Dollar and Service Medal Sets to be offered on January 17th for \$99.95 per set plus shipping and handling. Anyone wanting all five of the medal sets is looking at a cost of basically \$500.00. The second challenge with these sets is the 100,000 silver dollar limit imposed by Public Law 113-212. The law limits production of the Centennial WWI Silver Dollar to a combined total of 350,000 coins in Uncirculated and Proof versions. This means the Mint can only accept a total of 100,000 set orders. The branch of Service being honored is not a factor, as production will be based on accepted orders up to a maximum of 100,000 sets spread across all five of the Service branches being honored. Do you see the possibility of low production number sets rising in value? What about a quick sellout? Will the set program adversely affect availability in the individual Uncirculated and Proof version offerings? By February 1st, we'll have answers to these and several other questions. Below are drawings of the dollar and medals.



The last offering for January is the \$100 Platinum Proof Coin which becomes available on Jan. 25th. With this offering, the primary challenge is the cost which will probably be \$1250-1400.00. If one purchases this coin, the WWI Service Branch sets, a Proof Silver American Eagle, an Uncirculated WWI Centennial Silver Dollar, and a Proof ATB Quarters set, you're into the 2018 numismatic year by the end of January for about \$2000.00. While the Platinum coins do not normally sell out on the first day of availability, limited production quantities improve their desirability and the new designs honoring the Preamble may help bolster sales.



Phil Clark

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



ANACSGrading Service will be taking submissions during our January Coin Show



The passing of a long time club member.

On December 6, 2017 our dear friend and fellow club member Rita Torres passed away. Per her request, no notice obituary or additional information was published at her passing. Our sincerest condolences go to your family and close friends. We will all miss you Rita.

100% Attendance Members for 2017

Richard Baylock
Robie Cagle
Cindy Cagle
Sheri Gundersen
Melvin Gurtatowski
Darin Lee
Jan Reninger
Don Swain
Ron Swain
Jeff Coats

Chris Larson

Please remember to sign the roll at each meeting. Also, if you bring a guest make sure Cindy Cagle or a board member is aware of it. Now is the time to maximize you tickets for next years Christmas Dinner.

UNS Membership Application

Application for membership in the "Utah Numismatic Society"

P.O. Box 65054, Salt Lake City, UT 84165

Name(s) of Applicants:			
Address:			
E-Mail:			
Phone Number:			
Signature:			
ANNUAL DUES			
\$30 Family \$20 Adult	\$5 Junior / Under 18		
Where & When we meet:	By signing this application I		
Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M.	acknowledge that I have never been convicted of a felony.		
Columbus Community Center / 2531 South 500 East, SLC, UT 84115			

The Utah Numismatic Society is now enjoying its 67th year serving collectors in Utah. We sponsor an annual coin show held in Sandy which you may have attended. Our monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday in Salt Lake City. We have many knowledgeable as well as novice and beginning collectors in attendance every month.

Our monthly publication entitled "The Mint Master" contains interesting reading featuring articles such as the 'Counterfeit Corner,' 'Book Reviews,' 'Young Numismatists,' as well as many other numismatic news-worthy columns.

Our meetings include Bourse, Auctions, expert speakers as well as our annual "Youth Night" and "Summer Picnic."

We invite you to attend one of our meetings held at the Columbus Community Center, 2350 S. 500 E., Salt Lake City.

